

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 AID-05
IGA-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 SP-02 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00
/080 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GWSCOTT:PS
APPROVED BY AF:RMOOSE
AF/P:RHOLLIDAY

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O P 271548Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, US, SO

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE CONCERNING ARMS FOR SOMALIA

1. PRESS GUIDANCE OF JULY 26 IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT:
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Q: HAS THE U.S. AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SUPPLY ARMS TO
SOMALIA?

A: WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT AS
HAVE SEVERAL OTHER FRIENDS AND ALLIES OF OURS, ON THE
QUESTION OF ARMS SUPPLIES. WE HAVE INDICATED THAT WE

WOULD BE PREPARED "IN PRINCIPLE" TO PROVIDE ARMS IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER NATIONS WITH WHICH THE SOMALIS HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, CONFINE ANY DEFENSE ARTICLES WE MIGHT SUPPLY TO ITEMS DESIGNED TO FILL ANY GAPS THAT MIGHT EXIST IN THE DEFENSIVE STRUCTURE FOR SOMALIA'S PRESENT TERRITORY.

Q: HAVE ANY SPECIFIC ITEMS BEEN APPROVED?

A: NO, WE HAVE NOT YET ADDRESSED WHAT SPECIFIC ITEMS MIGHT BE PROVIDED OR WHAT THE TERMS, DELIVERY DATES OR QUANTITIES WOULD BE. I WOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT GRANT ASSISTANCE IS NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION.

Q: DOESN'T THIS POLICY TOWARDS SOMALI ARMS INVOLVE THE U.S. IN THE CURRENT FIGHTING IN THE OGADEN?

A: WE ARE NOT INVOLVED ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER OF THE OGADEN DISPUTE, AND I WOULD RE-EMPHASIZE THAT ANY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA WOULD BE TO FILL GAPS IN SOMALIA'S DEFENSIVE STRUCTURE. WE HAVE NEVER DELIVERED ANY MILITARY SUPPLIES OR EQUIPMENT TO SOMALIA.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FIGHTING IN THE OGADEN?

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A: WE ARE NOT INVOLVED AND DO NOT INTEND TO BECOME INVOLVED. WE WOULD HOPE THAT A SOLUTION WILL BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES PRINCIPALLY INVOLVED IN THE REGION.

Q: ISN'T OUR WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE ARMS TO SOMALIA INCONSISTENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEW ARMS TRANSFER POLICY?

A: WE ARE CONSIDERING THE SOMALI REQUEST IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW ARMS TRANSFER POLICY WHICH ENVISAGES A GLOBAL REDUCTION IN NEW ARMS TRANSFERS BUT ALSO PROVIDES FOR CASE-BY-CASE CONSIDERATION OF ARMS TRANSFERS WHERE SUCH SERVE U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES.

Q: DOES THAT IMPLY YOU ARE MAKING U.S. ARMS SUPPLIES TO SOMALIA CONDITIONAL ON THE DEPARTURE OF THE SOVIETS FROM MILITARY FACILITIES IN SOMALIA, SUCH AS BERBERA?

A: WE HAVE NO COMMENT ON SOVIET-SOMALI RELATIONS.

Q: ARE WE MOVING TO REPLACE THE SOVIETS AS PRIMARY

ARMS SUPPLIER TO SOMALIA?

A: OUR AIM IS NOT TO REPLACE THE SOVIETS, BUT WE DO THINK IT DESIRABLE FOR THE SOMALIS TO KNOW THAT THEY NEED NOT BE DEPENDENT UPON THE SOVIETS; THAT WE AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ARMS TO MEET THEIR DEFENSIVE NEEDS. THUS THEY WILL HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE IF THEY SO CHOOSE.

Q: WHAT IS OUR POSITION ON THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA?

A: IN LINE WITH OUR POLICY THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS ARE FOR AFRICANS TO SOLVE, WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE OAU PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MEMBER STATES.

3. POSTS MAY DRAW ON THIS GUIDANCE AS APPROPRIATE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY SALES, CONTINGENCY PLANNING, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE175545
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GWSCOTT:PS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770269-0295
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770713/aaaaakvm.tel
Line Count: 140
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a806f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1732142
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE CONCERNING ARMS FOR SOMALIA
TAGS: MASS, SOPN, US, SO
To: ADDIS ABABA MOGADISCIO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a806f762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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